

1724 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20009
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Interviews: 2005 adults
Dates: September 10-13 1998

48 Male
52 Female
[109]

FINAL

Study #4092
NBC/Wall Street Journal
September 1998

1. All in all, do you think things in the nation are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel that things are off on the wrong track?

	<u>9/98</u>	<u>7/98</u>	<u>6/98</u>	<u>4/98</u>	<u>2/98</u>	<u>1/98</u>	<u>12/97</u>	<u>High</u> <u>2/91+</u>	<u>Low</u> <u>7/92+</u>	
Right direction.....	51	45	45	50	53	47	48	65	14	[139]
Wrong track.....	35	39	39	35	32	34	35	22	71	
Mixed (VOL).....	11	13	13	12	12	16	13	9	9	
Not sure.....	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	6	

+ Asked only of registered voters

- 2a. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job Bill Clinton is doing as president?

	<u>9/98</u>	<u>7/98</u>	<u>6/98</u>	<u>4/98</u>	<u>2/98</u>	<u>1/98</u>	<u>12/97</u>	<u>High</u> <u>2/98</u>	<u>Low</u> <u>6/93</u>	
Approve.....	66	64	63	66	66	62	59	66	41	[140]
Disapprove.....	31	30	30	29	28	30	33	28	50	
Not sure.....	3	6	7	5	6	8	8	6	9	

- 2b. Do you generally approve or disapprove of the job Bill Clinton is doing in handling the economy?

	<u>9/98*</u>	<u>7/98</u>	<u>6/98</u>	<u>4/98</u>	<u>2/98</u>	<u>1/98</u>	<u>12/97</u>	<u>High</u> <u>4/98</u>	<u>Low</u> <u>7/93</u>	<u>9/94</u>	
Approve.....	75	69	70	76	76	65	64	76	40	40	[141]
Disapprove.....	19	23	22	16	17	25	27	16	51	51	
Not sure.....	6	8	8	8	7	10	9	8	9	9	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

- 2c. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job Bill Clinton is doing in handling our foreign policy?

	<u>9/98**</u>	<u>7/98</u>	<u>6/98</u>	<u>4/98</u>	<u>2/98</u>	<u>1/98</u>	<u>12/97</u>	<u>High</u> <u>2/98</u>	<u>Low</u> <u>9/94</u>	
Approve.....	63	58	53	63	61	54	52	61	32	[142]
Disapprove.....	29	31	36	27	31	34	38	31	60	
Not sure.....	8	11	11	10	8	12	10	8	8	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

- 2d. Let me read you a list of things that affect people's life and for each one I'd like you to tell me, using a scale from one to five, how significant a role this plays in your own life. If you think a particular item affects your life a great deal, choose a number closer to "5." If you think it is something that affects your life very little, pick a number closer to "1." You may use any number between one and five, depending on how significant a role an item plays in your life.

	Mean	Affects A Great Deal 5	3-4	Affects A Little 1-2	Cannot Rate	
National politics and which party controls Congress.....	3.4	24	52	23	1	[462]
The stock market and conditions of the country *.....	3.7	33	48	19	-	[463]
The weather and changes in the environmental conditions *....	3.4	25	51	24	-	[464]
Developments in medicine and health care *.....	4.1	48	44	8	-	[465]
The content of what is on TV and in the movies **.....	3.0	21	42	36	1	[466]
Moral values in the country **.....	3.8	46	36	18	-	[467]

NOTE: Responses shown reflect results among 1558 adults.

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

3. I'm going to read you the names of several public figures and institutions and I'd like you to rate your feelings toward each one as either very positive, somewhat positive, neutral, somewhat negative, or very negative. If you don't know the name, please just say so.

	Very Positive	Somewhat Positive	Neutral	Somewhat Negative	Very Negative	Don't Know Name/ Not Sure	
Bill Clinton							[143/149]
September 1998.....	18	22	17	14	29	-	
July 1998.....	24	26	17	15	18	-	
June 1998.....	24	30	14	12	20	-	
April 1998.....	27	29	13	11	19	1	
April 2, 1998.....	23	21	20	13	22	1	
February 1998.....	29	28	14	12	17	-	
January 17-19, 1998.....	21	36	15	13	15	-	
December 1997.....	21	34	16	13	15	1	
<i>High</i>							
January 1993.....	33	31	15	9	7	5	
<i>Low</i>							
September 1994.....	13	28	18	18	23	-	
Hillary Rodham Clinton							[144/150]
September 1998.....	29	21	20	12	18	-	
July 1998.....	22	24	25	13	14	2	
June 1998.....	26	22	21	11	19	1	
April 1998.....	26	25	19	13	16	1	
February 1998.....	27	25	19	11	17	1	
January 17-19, 1998.....	20	25	21	16	16	2	
December 1997.....	18	26	23	14	17	2	
<i>High</i>							
January 1993.....	27	30	21	8	8	6	
<i>Low</i>							
May 1996+.....	14	20	19	17	27	3	

+ Asked only of registered voters.

Q.3 (cont'd)

	Very Positive	Somewhat Positive	Neutral	Somewhat Negative	Very Negative	Don't Know Name/ Not Sure	
Kenneth Starr							[145/151]
September 1998.....	12	13	23	16	33	3	
July 1998.....	10	13	18	14	36	9	
June 1998.....	9	11	21	16	33	10	
April 1998.....	7	11	20	15	33	14	
February 1998.....	7	13	20	15	26	19	
February 7, 1998*.....	7	12	21	15	24	21	
January 31, 1998*.....	8	10	25	11	22	24	
January 24, 1998*.....	8	12	22	11	14	33	
June 1997.....	4	10	19	8	6	53	
March 1997.....	2	8	18	6	6	60	
The Democratic Party							[146]
September 1998 *.....	15	25	33	17	9	1	
April 1998.....	15	27	29	15	12	2	
January 1998.....	13	30	30	16	9	2	
December 1997.....	14	31	25	16	12	2	
September 1997.....	13	28	28	18	11	2	
July 1997.....	12	29	30	16	11	2	
March 1997.....	11	29	28	18	12	2	
January 1997.....	16	31	24	17	11	1	
<i>High</i>							
October 20-21, 1992+.....	19	29	22	15	12	3	
<i>Low</i>							
December 1994.....	10	23	25	24	16	2	
The Republican Party							[147]
September 1998 *.....	14	27	29	15	14	1	
April 1998.....	10	27	30	18	13	2	
January 1998.....	9	29	30	18	12	2	
December 1997.....	9	27	30	19	13	2	
September 1997.....	11	25	29	20	13	2	
July 1997.....	8	29	31	19	11	2	
March 1997.....	10	30	27	19	12	2	
January 1997.....	10	32	26	20	11	1	
<i>High</i>							
January 1995.....	17	33	25	13	9	3	
<i>Low</i>							
September 1997.....	11	25	29	20	13	2	
The news media							[148]
September 1998 *.....	9	18	21	30	21	1	
June 1997.....	8	27	23	27	14	1	
January 1995.....	6	20	22	28	22	2	

* Results shown reflect responses among a sample of approximately 400 adults.

* Results shown reflect responses among a sample of 806 adults.

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

+ Asked only of registered voters.

Q.3 (cont'd)

	Very Positive	Somewhat Positive	Neutral	Somewhat Negative	Very Negative	Don't Know Name/ Not Sure	
Al Gore							[152]
September 1998 **.....	16	25	32	12	13	2	
July 1998.....	16	26	31	12	13	2	
June 1998.....	18	26	31	10	13	2	
April 1998.....	16	29	29	12	11	3	
February 1998.....	18	29	27	12	11	3	
January 1998.....	13	26	29	16	12	4	
December 1997.....	13	23	28	14	18	4	
<i>High</i>							
January 1993.....	23	32	22	9	6	8	
<i>Low</i>							
December 1997.....	13	23	28	14	18	4	
Richard Gephardt							[153]
September 1998 **.....	6	18	35	9	5	27	
October 1997.....	4	18	30	12	6	30	
September 1997.....	6	15	32	8	7	32	
March 1992.....	4	19	29	11	7	30	
March 1991.....	5	21	28	10	4	32	
Newt Gingrich							[154]
September 1998 **.....	9	24	25	18	20	4	
July 1998.....	7	18	28	18	23	6	
June 1998.....	7	18	27	21	23	4	
April 1998.....	5	18	28	20	23	6	
February 1998.....	6	20	31	18	19	6	
January 1998.....	6	17	26	21	25	5	
December 1997.....	7	17	24	18	29	5	
<i>High</i>							
April 21-25, 1995.....	11	20	18	13	23	15	
<i>Low</i>							
June 1997.....	6	15	18	25	30	6	
Mark McGwire							[155]
September 1998 **.....	51	15	17	2	1	14	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

- 4a. Are you currently registered to vote in the precinct or election district in which you now live, or haven't you had a chance to register yet?

Registered.....	85	Skip to Q.4c	[156]
Not registered.....	15	CONTINUE	
Not sure.....	-		

(ASK ONLY OF RESPONDENTS WHO ARE NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE OR ARE NOT SURE IN Q.4a)

- 4b. Do you plan to register in time to vote in the November 1998 elections?

Yes, plan to register.....	64	[157]
No, do not plan to register.....	30	
Not sure.....	6	

- 4c. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican, an independent, or something else? **(IF "DEMOCRAT" OR "REPUBLICAN," ASK:)** Would you call yourself a strong (Democrat/Republican) or not a very strong (Democrat/Republican)? **(IF NOT SURE, CODE AS "NOT VERY STRONG DEMOCRAT/REPUBLICAN.")** **(IF "INDEPENDENT," ASK:)** Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican Party, closer to the Democratic Party, or do you think of yourself as strictly independent?

Strong Democrat.....	19		[158]
Not very strong Democrat.....	12	Skip to Q.5b	
Independent/lean Democrat.....	10		
Strictly independent.....	20	Skip to Q.5c	
Independent/lean Republican.....	7		
Not very strong Republican.....	10	CONTINUE	
Strong Republican.....	15		
Other.....	5	Skip to Q.5c	
Not sure/nothing.....	2		

(ASK ONLY OF REPUBLICANS IN Q.4c.)

- 5a. Let me read you a list of people who might seek the Republican nomination for president in the year 2000. If you were voting today in the next Republican primary for president, which one of the following candidates would you vote for? **(IF "NOT SURE," ASK:)** Well, which way do you lean? ¹

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

	<i>All Republicans</i>						
	<u>9/98</u>	<u>4/98</u>	<u>1/98</u>	<u>9/97</u>	<u>7/97</u>	<u>4/97</u>	
Texas Governor George Bush, Jr.....	41	40	26	24	20	24	
Jack Kemp.....	11	NA	16	14	14	17	
Elizabeth Dole.....	10	NA	14	14	15	16	
Dan Quayle.....	8	14	6	7	10	9	
Steve Forbes.....	7	11	10	11	7	8	
Newt Gingrich.....	5	5	5	4	5	NA	
John Ashcroft.....	4	3	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Pat Buchanan.....	4	4	6	4	4	6	
Lamar Alexander.....	2	3	4	2	5	3	[159-160]
None/other (VOL).....	3	5	-	6	6	5	
Not sure.....	5	10	13	9	7	9	

¹An "NA" indicates that the person was not included in the list of potential candidates for that particular survey. Potential candidates who do not appear on the current list but were included previously and received less than 5% of the vote are included in the percentage for "none/other."

(ASK ONLY OF DEMOCRATS IN Q.4c.)

- 5b. Let me read you a list of people who might seek the Democratic nomination for president in the year 2000. If you were voting today in the next Democratic primary for president, which one of the following candidates would you vote for? **(IF "NOT SURE," ASK:)** Well, which way do you lean?

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

	All Democrats				
	9/98	1/98	9/97 ¹	7/97	4/97
Al Gore.....	51	45	47	52	56
Bill Bradley.....	12	14	13	11	9
Richard Gephardt.....	12	8	7	8	6
Bob Kerrey.....	4	4	5	4	4
John Kerrey.....	3	NA	NA	NA	NA
None/other (VOL).....	4	NA	5	7	11
Not sure.....	14	29	14	9	6

[161]

¹ Prior to January 1998, the list of potential candidates included Jesse Jackson.

- 5c. If the next election for president were held today, and Al Gore were running as the Democratic candidate and Texas Governor George W. Bush were the Republican candidate, for whom would you vote?

	9/98	4/98	9/97	
Al Gore.....	39	41	45	[162]
George Bush, Jr.....	49	44	39	
Neither/other (VOL).....	5	5	8	
Not sure.....	7	10	8	

- 6a. How confident are you in Al Gore's ability to lead the country as president -- are you extremely confident, quite confident, only somewhat confident, or not at all confident? *

Extremely confident.....	8	[163]
Quite confident.....	20	
Only somewhat confident.....	36	
Not at all confident.....	31	
Not sure.....	5	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

- 6a2. If anything happens to President Clinton, do you feel that Vice President Gore is or is not ready to assume duties as president now? **

Vice President Gore is ready.....	61	[164]
Vice President Gore is not ready.....	33	
Not sure.....	6	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

- 6a3. Who would you prefer as president--Bill Clinton or Al Gore? *

Prefer Bill Clinton.....	57	[165]
Prefer Al Gore.....	27	
Neither (VOL).....	11	
Other (VOL).....	1	
Not sure.....	4	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

- 6b. From what you have heard, do you think that the fund-raising practices of the Democrats and the Republicans in the 1996 campaign were both legal and ethical, legal but ethically questionable, or do you think that the fund-raising practices of the Democrats and Republicans were neither legal nor ethical? **

Both legal and ethical.....	7	[166]
Legal but ethically questionable.....	46	
Neither legal nor ethical.....	34	

Not sure..... 13

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

- 6c. Attorney General Janet Reno decided earlier this week to consider appointing a special independent counsel to investigate alleged political fund-raising abuses by the Clinton White House during the 1996 election. Do you favor or oppose this decision? *

Favor..... 54 [167]
Oppose..... 41
Not sure..... 5

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

- 7a. How much interest do you have in the upcoming elections for U.S. Congress in your district -- a great deal, quite a bit, just some, very little, or none at all?

	9/98		10/94		10/90	
	All Adults	Registered Voters	All Adults	Registered Voters	Registered Voters	
A great deal.....	27	29	26	30	28	[168]
Quite a bit.....	23	25	26	28	24	
Just some.....	33	33	33	31	29	
Very little.....	12	10	11	9	14	
None at all.....	4	2	3	2	4	
Not sure.....	1	1	1	-	1	

- 7b. Please tell me how likely you are to vote in the November 1998 elections for offices, such as governor and U.S. senator, using a ten-point scale. If you are certain that you will vote in November, pick a number closer to ten. If it is less likely that you will vote, use a number closer to one. You may choose any number from one to ten.

	9/98		7/98		10/94		
	All Adults	Registered Voters	All Adults	Registered Voters	All Adults	Registered Voters	
10, certain to vote.....	66	73	56	62	54	64	[169-170]
9.....	7	8	9	9	10	12	
8.....	9	8	11	11	8	7	
7.....	4	3	5	4	4	4	
6.....	2	1	2	2	3	3	
5.....	4	3	6	5	6	4	
4.....	1	1	1	1	1	-	
3.....	1	1	2	1	3	2	
2.....	1	1	1	1	2	1	
1, less likely to vote.....	5	1	6	3	7	2	
Not sure.....	-	-	1	1	2	1	

- 7c. And how much do you feel that having elections makes the government pay attention to what the people think -- a good deal, some, or not much?

A good deal..... 9/98 1/74¹ [171]
Some..... 44 46
Not much..... 36 35
Not sure..... 19 17
Not sure..... 1 2

¹Comparative data comes from a survey conducted by the National Opinion Research Center in January, 1974.

7d. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: I have little interest in politics and elections.

Agree.....	18	[172]
Disagree.....	81	
Not sure.....	1	

7e/f. Here are some things that have kept people away from the polls in recent elections. For each one, please tell me how much of an effect you think it will have on your participation in this year's elections. **(READ ITEM)** -- will this have a lot of effect, some effect, a little effect, or no effect at all on your participation in this year's elections?

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE OF ALL ADULTS WHO SAY A LOT OR SOME EFFECT

	A Lot Of Effect	Some Effect	A Little Effect	No Effect At All	Not Sure	
No major issues are being discussed *						[173]
All adults.....	23	22	14	39	2	
Registered voters.....	21	23	14	41	1	
Very negative campaign advertising by the candidates *						[175]
All adults.....	23	20	14	42	1	
Registered voters.....	23	19	14	43	1	
The outcome of the election will have little impact on my life						[177/209]
All adults.....	21	22	12	43	2	
Registered voters.....	21	22	11	44	2	
The economy is in good shape **						[178]
All adults.....	26	16	8	49	1	
Registered voters.....	24	15	9	51	1	
Politics has become dishonorable **						[208]
All adults.....	22	20	11	46	1	
Registered voters.....	21	19	10	49	1	
The election is one-sided, the outcome is not in doubt *						[176]
All adults.....	13	21	15	48	3	
Registered voters.....	13	20	14	50	3	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

Q.7e/f (cont'd)

	A Lot Of Effect	Some Effect	A Little Effect	No Effect At All	Not Sure	
The election concentrates on the President Clinton and Monica Lewinsky matter						[174/179]
All adults.....	17	11	12	59	1	
Registered voters.....	17	11	12	59	1	
Bad weather on Election Day or long lines to vote **						[180]
All adults.....	5	10	12	72	1	
Registered voters.....	5	9	11	75	-	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

8. Compared to congressional elections in other years, how important is the upcoming November election for U.S. Congress--the most important election in the past ten years, an election that is more important than most in recent years, an election of average importance, or an election that is less important than most?

	9/98		7/98		
	All Adults	Registered Voters	All Adults	Registered Voters	
Most important in past ten years.....	19	20	20	21	[210]
More important than most in recent years...	35	36	30	32	
Of average importance.....	40	39	43	42	
Less important than most.....	4	4	4	3	
Not at all important (VOL).....	1	-	1	-	
Not sure.....	1	1	2	2	

9. Now I'm going to read you several items that could be determined by the outcomes of this year's election. Please rate, on a scale from one to ten, how important each item is in deciding how you will vote this November. If you think that an item is very important, rate it as a "9" or "10." If you think it is not very important, rate it as a "1" or "2." You may use any number between one and ten depending on how important each issue is to you.

	Mean	Very Important 10	8-9	5-7	Less Important 1-4	Cannot Rate	
Which party controls the House of Representatives *							[211-212]
All adults.....	7.3	27	32	25	15	1	
Registered voters.....	7.4	28	34	23	14	1	
The future of Social Security *							[213-214]
All adults.....	8.7	54	29	13	4	-	
Registered voters.....	8.7	55	27	13	5	-	
Whether there are impeachment proceedings on President Clinton							[215-216/ 221-222]
All adults.....	6.2	25	21	22	31	1	
Registered voters.....	6.2	26	21	21	31	1	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

Q.9 (cont'd)

		Very Important			Less Important	Cannot	
The ability of President Clinton to work with Congress **							[217-218]
All adults.....	7.2	28	31	23	17	1	
Registered voters.....	7.2	29	31	23	16	1	
Local and state races and ballot initiatives **							[219-220]
All adults.....	7.1	22	30	33	14	1	
Registered voters.....	7.2	24	31	31	13	1	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

10. In general, do you approve or disapprove of the job Congress is doing?

	9/98**	7/98	6/98	4/98	2/98	1/98	12/97	10/97	High 2/98	Low 10/90+	
Approve.....	61	53	48	51	57	47	46	46	57	22	[223]
Disapprove.....	28	31	37	34	29	32	40	41	29	69	
Not sure.....	11	16	15	15	14	21	14	13	14	9	

+ Asked only of registered voters

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

11a. What is your preference for the outcome of the November 1998 congressional elections -- a Congress controlled by Republicans or a Congress controlled by Democrats?

	9/98		4/98	2/98	1/98	12/97	9/97	7/97	4/97	
	All Adults	Registered Voters								
Republican-controlled Congress. .	40	41	37	41	40	41	41	45	44	[224]
Democrat-controlled Congress.....	39	38	41	37	42	37	39	39	38	
Not sure ²	21	21	22	22	18	22	20	16	18	
			11/96+	10/96+	9/96+	6/96+	1/96	12/95	10/94 ¹	
			44	42	42	40	41	42	44	
			40	40	41	40	38	41	38	
			16	18	17	20	21	17	18	

+ Asked only of registered voters.

¹ In October 1994, the question referred to the 1994 congressional elections; the 1995 and 1996 survey dates referred to the 1996 congressional elections; the 1997 dates refer to the 1998 congressional elections.

² The volunteered responses "both equal," "neither in control," or "doesn't matter," were reported separately; for purposes of comparative they are combined with "not sure."

11b. In this year's election for U.S. House of Representatives, do you plan to vote for the Republican candidate or the Democratic candidate in your district? (IF "NOT SURE," ASK:) Well, which way do you lean at this time?

[illegible]

¹ Prior to March 1996, the question read "election for U.S. Congress. . ."

+ Asked only of registered voters.

11c. In general, do you think it is better for the same political party to control both the Congress and the presidency, so they can work together more closely, or do you think it is better to have different political parties controlling the Congress and the presidency to prevent either one from going too far?

	9/98*											
	All Adults	Registered Voters	9/97	6/96+	12/95	1/95	10/94	6/94	1/94	10/93	12/92	
Better if same party controls Congress and the presidency. .	34	33	25	43	42	33	36	30	33	30	37	[226]
Better if different parties control Congress and the presidency. .	55	56	67	44	48	55	55	59	56	58	51	
Not sure.....	11	11	8	13	10	12	9	11	11	12	12	
			10/92+	9/92+	8/92+	7/92+	4/92+	1/92+	10/91+	10/90+	1/90+	9/86+
			39	40	43	40	32	28	24	23	24	28
			47	46	44	47	61	62	67	67	63	64
			14	14	13	13	7	10	9	10	13	8

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

+ Asked only of registered voters.

11d. If President Clinton continues to be president for the next two years, would you prefer that Congress be controlled by the Republicans or the Democrats for those two years? **

Controlled by Republicans.....	45	[227]
Controlled by Democrats.....	42	
Not sure.....	13	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

12. Let me read you some specific issues. When it comes to **(READ ITEM)**, which party do you think would do a better job--the Democratic Party, the Republican Party, both about the same, or neither? **

	<u>Party Advantage</u>	<u>Democratic Party</u>	<u>Republican Party</u>	<u>Both About The Same</u>	<u>Neither</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
Protecting the environment							[228]
September 1998.....	D-33	45	12	30	9	4	
May 1996.....	D-28	45	17	18	3	7	
December 1995.....	D-32	45	13	20	13	9	
October 1993.....	D-29	44	15	13	22	6	
July 1992+.....	D-27	38	11	27	18	6	
October 1991.....	D-23	39	16	24	12	9	
Dealing with the problem of health care							[229]
September 1998.....	D-20	40	20	24	13	3	
June 1998.....	D-13	25	12	34	23	6	
May 1996.....	D-20..	42	22	16	17	3	
December 1995.....	D-21..	43	22	13	16	6	
October 1994.....	D-12..	37	25	12	20	6	
July 1992+.....	D-34..	44	10	21	19	6	
Dealing with education							[230]
September 1998.....	D-16	38	22	29	8	3	
October 1994.....	D-13	34	21	24	15	6	
October 1993.....	D-8	32	24	16	24	4	
July 1992+.....	D-25	42	17	25	12	4	
October 1991+.....	D-14	28	14	33	18	7	
Dealing with Social Security							[231]
September 1998.....	D-16	37	21	25	13	4	
July 1998.....	D-9	28	19	34	14	5	
January 1998.....	D-11	26	15	34	18	7	
September 1997.....	D-14	33	19	18	22	8	
October 1996.....	D-12	36	24	17	15	8	
December 1995.....	D-22	44	22	14	14	6	
Dealing with taxes							[232]
September 1998.....	R-6	29	35	22	11	3	
October 1994.....	R-15	23	38	17	18	4	
October 1993.....	R-11	23	34	16	23	4	
October 1991+.....	R-5	26	31	18	18	7	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

+ Asked only of registered voters.

Q.12** (cont'd)

	Party Advantage	Democratic Party	Republican Party	Both About The Same	Neither	Not Sure	
Dealing with the economy							[233]
September 1998.....	-	31	31	29	6	3	
October 1994.....	R-8	22	30	28	16	4	
October 1993.....	R-5	22	27	20	28	3	
July 1992+.....	D-8	26	18	35	18	3	
Dealing with foreign policy							[234]
September 1998.....	R-10	23	33	34	6	4	
October 1994.....	R-19	15	34	34	12	5	
October 1993.....	R-27	10	37	11	39	3	
July 1992+.....	R-33	15	48	24	7	6	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

+ Asked only of registered voters.

13. Please tell me which one or two of the following issues will be most important to you in deciding how to vote in this year's elections for U.S. senator and Congress. **(ACCEPT UP TO TWO RESPONSES.)**

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

	9/98*	6/98	
Guaranteeing the future of Social Security +	44	43	
+.....			
Improving public education.....	42	40	[235-236]
Reducing taxes +.....	22	28	>
Passing HMO reform.....	18	NA	
Dealing with declining moral values.....	15	NA	
Dealing with the budget surplus.....	14	NA	
The investigation of President Clinton.....	4	NA	
All equally (VOL).....	6	6	
None of these (VOL).....	-	1	
Not sure.....	-	-	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

+ In June 1998, statement read "Cutting taxes on middle class families."

++ In June 1998, statement read "Preserving Social Security and Medicare."

14. Now, I'm going to mention several things that you might learn about a candidate for Congress in your district. For each one, please tell me whether it would make you more likely or less likely to support that candidate, or whether it would not be a factor in your decision.

If a candidate (**READ ITEM**), would this make you more likely or less likely to support that candidate, or would it not be a factor in your decision? (**IF "MORE LIKELY," ASK:)** Would this make you much more likely or somewhat more likely to support this candidate? (**IF "LESS LIKELY," ASK:)** Would this make you much less likely or somewhat less likely to support this candidate? **

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY MUCH MORE OR SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY

	Much More Likely	Somewhat More Likely	Somewhat Less Likely	Much Less Likely	Not A Factor	Not Sure	
Favors a woman's right to choose on abortion							[245]
September 1998.....	35	16	8	17	22	2	
October 1994—all adults.....	39	21	9	21	4	6	
October 1994—registered voters.....	40	21	8	21	4	6	
October 1991—registered voters.....	35	20	10	24	7	4	
Favors a ban on partial-birth abortion							[237]
September 1998.....	28	14	10	20	24	4	
Is endorsed by the AFL-CIO and labor unions							[246]
September 1998.....	15	14	10	16	42	3	
Calls for President Clinton's resignation							[240]
September 1998.....	17	11	11	26	32	3	
Is endorsed by the Christian Coalition and other conservative religious groups +							[243]
September 1998.....	16	11	10	24	37	2	
October 1994—all adults.....	10	9	21	43	13	4	
October 1994—registered voters.....	10	9	20	44	12	5	
Is endorsed by President Bill Clinton							[244]
September 1998.....	15	12	8	21	42	2	
Is an incumbent in Congress							[238]
September 1998.....	9	15	9	5	57	5	
October 1994—all adults.....	9	19	28	18	16	10	
October 1994—registered voters.....	8	18	28	19	18	9	
October 1991—registered voters.....	12	18	21	15	19	15	
Favors impeaching President Clinton							[239]
September 1998.....	14	9	12	29	33	3	
Voted against campaign finance reform legislation							[242]
September 1998.....	10	12	20	23	30	5	
Is endorsed by Speaker Newt Gingrich							[241]
September 1998.....	8	11	11	24	43	3	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

+ In October 1994, response read "Is endorsed by Religious Right groups, such as Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition."

- 15a. Suppose that the election for Congress in your district were between CANDIDATE A, a candidate who favors spending available education funds on providing vouchers to people who want to choose different schools, and CANDIDATE B, a candidate who favors spending available education funds on needs such as

building more classrooms and hiring new teachers. Which of these candidates would you be more likely to support--candidate A or candidate B? *

Candidate A/spend money on vouchers.....	25	[247]
Candidate B/spend money on more classrooms, teachers...	72	
Neither (VOL).....	1	
Not sure.....	2	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

- 15b. Suppose that the election for Congress in your district were between CANDIDATE A, a candidate who favors a patients' rights bill that guarantees the right to sue HMOs for improper care, but might result in higher premiums, and CANDIDATE B, a candidate who favors a patients' rights bill that does not permit the right to sue HMOs for improper care, but might hold down fees. Which of these candidates would you be more likely to support -- candidate A or candidate B? **

Candidate A/ guarantees right to sue HMOs.....	71	[248]
Candidate B/ does not guarantee right to sue HMOs.....	20	
Neither (VOL).....	3	
Not sure.....	6	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

- 15c. I'm going to read you two proposals to reform Social Security, and then get your reaction. Statement A: Social Security should remain a mandatory government program that guarantees individuals a particular level of retirement benefits without risk, or Statement B: Individuals should be able to invest a portion of their Social Security in the stock market with the possibility of higher or lower returns, which means that there is no guaranteed level of retirement benefits.

Having heard this information, which statement do you agree with more, Statement A or Statement B?

Statement A/Social Security remain mandatory government program.....	66	[249]
Statement B/Individuals right to decide how Social Security is invested.....	31	
Neither (VOL).....	1	
Not sure.....	2	

16. As you may know, some experts think that the federal government will have a surplus of funds in the next few years. If that happens, for which one of the following would you like to see the surplus funds used?

Retire a portion of the national debt.....	22	[250]
To guarantee the financial stability of the Social Security system.....	43	
Returned to the taxpayers in the form of lower taxes.....	26	
Expand and improve government programs.....	7	
None/other (VOL).....	1	
Not sure.....	1	

Now, I'd like to turn your attention to a different subject.

- 17a. I am going to read you four statements about Bill Clinton and the job he is doing as president. Please tell me which one of these statements best describes how you feel about Bill Clinton.

Statement A) He is doing a good job as president, and I respect him personally
Statement B) He is doing a good job as president, but I do not respect him personally
Statement C) He is not doing a good job as president, but I respect him personally
Statement D) He is not doing a good job as president, and I do not respect him personally

	9/98	4/98	
Statement A) Good job/respect him.....	25	33	[251]
Statement B) Good job/do not respect him.....	50	45	
Statement C) Not good job/respect him.....	2	2	
Statement D) Not good job/do not respect him....	23	19	
None (VOL).....	-	-	
Not sure.....	-	1	

- 17b. Which counts more to you -- Bill Clinton's performance as president or his personal behavior?

Performance as president.....	75	[252]
Personal behavior.....	11	
Both equal (VOL).....	13	
Not sure.....	1	

- 18a. Now, I would like to read you a list of qualities by which a president might be judged. For each item, I would like you to tell me how you would rate Bill Clinton on that quality using a scale from one to five, on which a "5" means you would give him a very good rating, a "1" means you would give him a very poor rating, and a "3" means you would give him a mixed rating. You can use any number between one and five, depending on how strongly you feel.

When it comes to **(READ ITEM)**, how would you rate Bill Clinton, using a five-point scale, on which a "5" means a very good rating, a "1" means a very poor rating, and a "3" means a mixed rating?

	Very Good 4-5	3	Very Poor 1-2	Cannot Rate	
His ethical and moral values					[253]
September 1998.....	10	16	73	1	
December 1995.....	37	32	30	1	
October 1995.....	40	31	28	1	
July 1995.....	32	32	35	1	
April 21-25, 1995.....	36	31	32	1	
January 1995.....	32	30	37	1	
October 1994.....	26	37	36	1	
May 1994.....	32	29	36	3	
January 1994.....	33	35	30	2	
October 1993.....	43	30	26	1	
January 1993.....	50	29	20	1	

Q.18a (cont'd)	Very Good 4-5	3	Very Poor 1-2	Cannot Rate	
Caring about average people					[254]
September 1998.....	52	22	26	-	
December 1995.....	52	27	21	-	
July 1995.....	50	23	26	1	
April 21-25, 1995.....	58	18	22	2	
January 1995.....	56	23	21	-	
Serving as commander-in-chief					[255]
September 1998.....	51	20	28	1	
December 1995.....	38	28	33	1	
October 1995.....	40	29	29	2	
July 1995.....	34	28	37	1	
April 21-25, 1995.....	37	31	31	1	
January 1995.....	34	34	31	1	
October 1994.....	37	26	36	1	
June 1994.....	31	34	34	1	
May 1994.....	32	37	30	1	
January 1994.....	40	29	29	2	
October 1993.....	32	32	35	1	
January 1993.....	43	39	16	2	
Being effective and getting things done					[256]
September 1998.....	54	27	19	-	
December 1995.....	27	34	39	-	
A role model for our children					[257]
September 1998.....	10	17	73	-	
Telling the truth					[258]
September 1998.....	8	15	77	-	
December 1995.....	28	30	39	3	
October 1995.....	32	31	34	3	
July 1995.....	27	30	41	2	
April 21-25, 1995.....	30	29	39	2	
January 1995.....	25	32	41	2	
June 1994.....	26	28	43	3	
May 1994.....	28	28	40	4	
Being consistent and standing up for his beliefs					[259]
September 1998.....	34	24	41	1	
December 1995.....	40	22	38	-	

18b. Do you think that the recent allegations against President Clinton are or are not affecting his ability to lead the country? *

	9/98	8/98	
Yes, are affecting his ability.....	69	52	[260]
No, are not affecting his ability.....	28	44	
Not sure.....	3	4	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

18c. Which element of the situation involving Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky bothers you the most? **

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

President Clinton did not tell the truth and put his family and the nation through unnecessary agony.....	35	[261]
The story has distracted the country from more important matters.	26	
Ken Starr's investigation has cost over \$40 million.....	17	
The press has put so much time and emphasis on the story.....	7	
President Clinton had sexual relations with Monica Lewinsky, who was a twenty-one-year-old White House intern at the time.....	4	
Some Republicans want impeachment hearings.....	3	
None of these (VOL).....	2	
All of these (VOL)	6	
Not sure.....	-	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

18d. Let me read you three statements about the situation regarding Bill Clinton and Monica Lewinsky. Please tell me which one comes closest to your own point of view. Statement A: I believe that Bill Clinton's actions in this situation represent a serious breach of the public's trust, and that he should now be impeached or resign from office, Statement B: I believe that Bill Clinton's actions in this situation represent a serious breach of the public's trust, but that he should be allowed to serve out the rest of his term, and Statement C: I believe that Bill Clinton's actions in this situation are a private matter between him and his family, and that the whole issue should now be dropped completely.

Statement A/actions represent breach of trust, should leave office.....	29	[262]
Statement B/actions represent breach of trust, should be allowed to remain in office.....	29	
Statement C/private matter, should be dropped...	40	
None (VOL).....	1	
Not sure.....	1	

19a. Based on what you know about the Monica Lewinsky matter, which of the following best describes what you think will happen? Statement A: There will be an ongoing investigation and Congress will censure President Clinton, but he will not be impeached or forced to resign, Statement B: Special Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's report will provide evidence of illegal actions by President Clinton, Congress will begin impeachment hearings, and Clinton will resign, Statement C: Congress will impeach President Clinton, or Statement D: The evidence in Special Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's report to Congress will be inconclusive and the matter will be dropped.

Statement A/Ongoing investigation, Congress censures President Clinton, he will not be impeached or resign.....	46	[263]
Statement B/President Clinton will resign.....	23	
Statement C/Congress will impeach President Clinton..	8	
Statement D/Inconclusive evidence, matter will be dropped.....	20	
None of these (VOL).....	-	
Not sure.....	3	

19b1. How much confidence do you have that Kenneth Starr's report on President Clinton will be fair and impartial--a great deal of confidence, quite a bit, just some, or very little?

	<u>9/98</u> **	<u>7/98</u>	<u>6/98</u>	<u>4/98</u> ¹	
A great deal of confidence.....	20	15	11	13	[264]
Quite a bit of confidence.....	16	12	11	14	
Just some confidence.....	22	25	24	25	
Very little confidence.....	40	45	50	43	
Not sure.....	2	3	4	5	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

¹ Previously, this question was phrased, "As you may know, Special Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr will submit a report to Congress on his investigation of allegations involving President Clinton. How much confidence do you have that Starr's report will be fair - a great deal, quite a bit, just some, or very little?"

19b2. Which worries you more: A: that Congress will act too quickly and remove President Clinton from office, or B: that Congress will act too slowly and the investigation of President Clinton will drag on for six months or more? **

A/Congress will act too quickly.....	29	[265]
B/Congress will act too slowly.....	64	
Other (VOL).....	1	
Neither (VOL).....	3	
Not sure.....	3	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

19c. From what you know, do you believe that President Clinton has or has not obstructed justice in his handling of his relationship with Monica Lewinsky? *

	<u>9/98</u>	<u>8/17/98</u>	
Believe that the President has obstructed justice.....	60	38	[266]
Do not believe that the President has obstructed justice. .	31	47	
Not sure.....	9	15	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

¹ In August 1998 the question referred to the relationship as "alleged relationship".

20a. As you may know, Special Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr recently sent his report on the investigation of Bill Clinton to Congress. There are reports that it may contain explicit details of sexual encounters. With this in mind, do you think that the entire report should be made public, only a summary should be made public, or do you think that none of the report should be made public? *

Entire report should be made public.....	32	[267]
Only a summary should be made public.....	36	
None of the report should be made public.....	30	
Depends (VOL).....	1	
Not sure.....	1	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

20b. Do you favor or oppose Congress passing a resolution censuring, that is, formally reprimanding, President Clinton for his actions in the Monica Lewinsky matter as an alternative to impeachment? *

Favor.....	60	[268]
Oppose.....	34	
Not sure.....	6	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

21a. Do you think that President Clinton should or should not resign from office? **

	<u>9/98</u>	<u>8/20/98</u>	
Should resign.....	34	28	[269]

Should not resign.....	61	65
Depends (VOL).....	3	3
Not sure.....	2	4

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

- 21b. As you may know, the President has apologized and said that he sinned. Do you feel that Congress should or should not drop the matter, even if laws were broken?

Yes, Congress should drop the matter.....	36	[468]
No, Congress should not drop the matter.....	61	
Not sure.....	3	

NOTE: Results shown reflect responses among 1558 adults.

- 21c. Do the specific details of President Clinton's personal behavior make you think that he is fit to remain president, or not?

Is fit to remain president.....	57	[469]
Is not fit to remain president.....	36	
Not sure.....	7	

NOTE: Results shown reflect responses among 1558 adults.

- 21d. Based on what you know, do you feel that President Clinton should serve out the remainder of his term, or not?

Should serve out the remainder of his term.....	66	[470]
Should not serve out the remainder of his term.	31	
Not sure.....	3	

NOTE: Results shown reflect responses among 1558 adults.

- 22a. Let me read you some situations that might be included in Special Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's report involving President Clinton, and for each one please tell me whether Congress should or should not hold impeachment hearings.

	Should Hold Impeachment Hearings	Should Not Hold Impeachment Hearings	Depends (VOL)	Not Sure	
If President Clinton lied about sex in his testimony in the Paula Jones case...	37	58	2	3	[270]
If President Clinton lied to the federal Grand Jury in the Monica Lewinsky investigation.....	53	41	3	3	[271]
If Special Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr's report contains evidence that President Clinton obstructed justice.....	60	34	3	3	[272]

22b. Which one of the following reasons do you think is the primary reason why he should not be impeached?

Impeachment is not worth distracting the Congress and the country from dealing with important issues.....	31	[273]
Bill Clinton is doing a good job as president.....	24	
The charges are not serious enough for impeachment.....	22	
The impeachment process and hearings would be bad for the country.....	11	
An impeachment would cost too much money.....	3	
None (VOL).....	3	
All (VOL).....	5	
Not sure.....	1	

More legitimate to cover sex life of other politicians.....	25	[274]
Less legitimate to cover sex life of other politicians.....	69	
Not sure.....	6	

23. How satisfied are you with the state of the U.S. economy today--are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with the state of the economy?

	<u>9/98</u>	<u>12/97</u>	<u>9/97</u>	<u>6/97</u>	<u>3/97</u>	<u>12/96</u>	<u>9/96</u>	<u>High</u> <u>12/97</u>	<u>Low</u> <u>1/96</u>	
Very satisfied.....	31	18	13	10	13	9	7	18	3	[275]
Somewhat satisfied.....	55	52	52	51	45	51	49	52	37	
Somewhat dissatisfied.....	10	20	23	27	27	27	30	20	38	
Very dissatisfied.....	3	8	10	10	13	11	12	8	19	
Not sure.....	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	

24. How satisfied are you with your own financial situation today--are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with your financial situation?

[illegible]

25. During the next year, do you think that the national economy will get better, will get worse, or will stay about the same?

	<u>9/98</u> **	<u>4/97</u>	
Will get better.....	19	19	[277]
Will get worse.....	22	22	
Will stay about the same.....	53	57	
Not sure.....	6	2	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

- 26a. Do you think there will or will not be an economic recession during the next twelve months?

	<u>9/98</u> *	<u>4/97</u>	<u>1/97</u>	<u>3/96</u>	<u>12/90</u>	<u>10/90</u>	<u>9/15- 18/90</u>	<u>9/4- 5/90</u>	<u>8/90</u>	
Will be an economic recession.....	31	19	23	32	73	66	51	58	57	[278]
Will not be an economic recession.....	57	70	67	53	19	24	35	30	26	
Not sure.....	12	11	10	15	8	10	14	12	17	
						<u>7/90</u>	<u>5/90</u>	<u>4/90</u>	<u>3/90</u>	<u>1/90</u>
						25	30	23	30	31
						49	57	64	56	56
						26	13	13	14	13

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

- 26b. If we had a recession in the next year, which party do you think would do a better job getting the economy started again--the Democratic Party or the Republican Party, both about the same, or neither? *

The Democratic Party.....	24	[279]
The Republican Party.....	26	
Both about the same.....	39	
Neither.....	7	
Not sure.....	4	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

- 27a. Currently, the Dow Jones Industrial Average is around eight thousand points. Which do you feel is more likely to occur by the end of 1998--the Dow Jones Industrial Average will go up to nine thousand points or it will drop down to seven thousand? **

Will go up to 9,000.....	34	[280]
Will drop down to 7,000.....	45	
Depends (VOL).....	6	
Both (VOL).....	2	
Not sure.....	13	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

27b. In your opinion, is today a good time to buy stock, a good time to sell stock, or a good time to hold on to your stock? *

A good time to buy.....	24	[308]
A good time to sell.....	8	
A good time to hold.....	56	
Not sure.....	12	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

28. Do you expect your children's generation to enjoy a higher standard of living than your generation?

	9/98**	2/98	6/97	4/97	9/96+	6/96	3/96	1/96	12/94	9/94	7/94	5/90+	[309]
Yes, expect children's generation to enjoy a higher standard of living.....	63	64	53	52	43	43	41	41	48	49	45	60	
No, do not expect children's generation to enjoy a higher standard of living.....	32	32	42	44	47	47	51	52	46	45	50	37	
Not sure.....	5	4	5	4	10	10	8	7	6	6	5	3	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

+ Asked only of registered voters.

29a. Which one of the following do you think is the most responsible for the continued strong economy? *

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

Productivity of businesses and workers.....	32	[310]
Alan Greenspan and the Federal Reserve.....	20	
The Clinton Administration.....	16	
The national and international business cycles..	14	
The Republican Congress' policies.....	8	
None of these (VOL).....	1	
All of these (VOL).....	3	
Not sure.....	6	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

29b. Which one of the following do you think poses the greatest threat to the health of the U.S. economy?

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

	9/98 *	7/98	[311]
The financial crisis in Asia.....	27	17	
Unexpected inflation.....	17	11	
Politics between the President and Congress.....	16	NA	
A decline in the stock market.....	15	8	
An increase in inflation.....	14	NA	
All of these (VOL).....	5	7	
None of these (VOL).....	1	2	
Not sure.....	5	5	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

- 29c. Do you think that it is better for the United States to respond to economic uncertainties by opening up trade with foreign countries, or by restricting trade with foreign countries? **

Opening trade with foreign countries.....	55	[312]
Restricting trade with foreign countries.....	30	
Depends (VOL).....	7	
Not sure.....	8	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

- 30a. Should the United States participate with the International Monetary Fund and other nations in a plan to lend money to countries that suffer financial collapse, such as Russia, South Korea, and Indonesia?

	<u>9/98</u> *	<u>12/97</u>	
Yes, U.S. should participate.....	41	34	[313]
No, U.S. should not participate.....	48	51	
Depends (VOL).....	5	8	
Not sure.....	6	7	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).
In December 1997, this question previously did not include Russia.

- 30b. Do you think that the U.S. should or should not provide financial assistance to help stabilize the Russian economy? **

Should provide financial assistance.....	35	[314]
Should not provide financial assistance.....	52	
Depends (VOL).....	5	
Not sure.....	8	

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

31. As you may know, Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein still has not fully complied with United Nations inspections for chemical and biological weapons materials. Do you think that the United States should continue to rely on diplomatic negotiations, or should the United States use military force to resolve this matter with Iraq?

	<u>9/98</u> *	<u>1/98</u>	
U.S. should rely on diplomatic negotiations.....	45	42	[315]
U.S. should use military force.....	46	47	
Depends (VOL).....	6	6	
Not sure.....	3	5	

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

Now I'd like to ask you a few questions about the media

32. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the news media cover **(READ ITEM)?**

	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
The news overall.....	49	48	3	[316]
The investigation of President Clinton.....	37	60	3	[317]
International news stories such as Russia and Iraq *.....	75	20	5	[318]
Business and financial news *.....	84	13	3	[319]
Politics and government **.....	49	45	6	[320]
The baseball home run race **.....	82	10	8	[321]

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

33. Some people think that by criticizing leaders, news organizations keep political leaders from doing their job. Others think that such criticism is worth it because it keeps political leaders from doing things that should not be done. Which position is closer to your opinion? ¹

	<u>9/98</u>	<u>2/98</u>	<u>2/97</u>	<u>Late 1/94</u>	<u>Early 1/94</u>	<u>8/89</u>	<u>12/86</u>	<u>6/85</u>	
Criticism by the press keeps political leaders from doing their job.....	29	39	32	24	18	23	26	17	[322]
Criticism keeps leaders from doing things that should not be done.....	61	55	56	66	69	68	60	67	
Not sure.....	10	6	12	10	13	9	14	16	

¹Comparative data comes from surveys conducted by PEW Research Center for the People & The Press.

34a. Do you feel that the national news media's coverage of government and politics is generally objective and fair, or generally biased and unfair?

Objective and fair.....	41	[323]
Biased and unfair.....	47	
Mixed/both (VOL).....	10	
Not sure.....	2	

- 34b. Let me ask you about some specific news organizations. While you may not have read or seen the following all the time -- based on what you know, how much confidence do you have in the ability of **(READ ITEM)** to report the news objectively and fairly -- a great deal, quite a bit, only a little, or none at all?

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE PERCENTAGE WHO SAY A GREAT DEAL OR QUITE A BIT OF CONFIDENCE

	<u>A Great Deal Of Confidence</u>	<u>Quite A Bit Of Confidence</u>	<u>Only A Little Confidence</u>	<u>No Confidence At All</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
CNN Cable News *.....	34	36	15	5	10	[326]
NBC News **.....	24	41	25	4	6	[332]
ABC News *.....	24	39	26	4	7	[325]
Your local TV newscasts **.....	19	37	33	7	4	[336]
CBS News **.....	18	37	30	7	8	[334]
Time Magazine *.....	20	33	21	7	19	[330]
CNBC or MSNBC Cable News **.....	20	33	20	5	22	[335]
The Wall Street Journal **.....	22	30	16	3	29	[331]
The New York Times *.....	19	26	17	5	33	[324]
Fox News Channel *.....	15	29	30	5	21	[327]
The major local daily paper in your area *.....	17	32	35	13	3	[329]
Newsweek Magazine **.....	15	28	26	6	25	[337]
The Washington Post **.....	12	19	21	7	41	[333]
The Internet *.....	13	17	23	12	35	[328]

* Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM A).

** Asked of one-half the respondents (FORM B).

35. Some people feel that there has been an increase in the amount of coverage that news organizations give to sensationalized news and scandals these days. Which one of the following do you think would be most to blame for an increase in coverage of sensationalized news and scandals?

THIS TABLE HAS BEEN RANKED BY THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE

Editors and news program producers who want high ratings and larger audiences.....	30	[338]
Viewers who seem to care more about sensational scandals than serious news.....	24	
Owners of magazines, newspapers, and TV or radio stations who want to boost profits.....	16	
Reporters who are trying to make a name for themselves.....	8	
Round-the-clock, twenty-four-hour news services on cable television and the Internet. .	7	
All (VOL).....	12	
None/other (VOL).....	1	
Not sure.....	2	

Now I am going to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes only.

F1. How old are you? **(IF REFUSED, ASK:)** Well, can you tell me which age group you belong to? Are you in the age group 18 to 24, 25 to 29, 30 to 34, 35 to 39, 40 to 44, 45 to 49, 50 to 54, 55 to 59, 60 to 64, or 65 and over?

18-24.....	9	[339-340]
25-29.....	8	
30-34.....	9	
35-39.....	11	
40-44.....	12	
45-49.....	12	
50-54.....	10	
55-59.....	6	
60-64.....	6	
65 and over.....	15	
Refused.....	2	

F2. What is the last grade you completed in school?

Grade school.....	-	[341-342]
Some high school.....	6	
High school graduate.....	27	
Some college, no degree.....	20	
Vocational training/2-year college.....	10	
4-year college/bachelor's degree.....	21	
Some postgraduate work, no degree.....	3	
2-3 years postgraduate work/master's degree...	9	
Doctoral/law degree.....	2	
Not sure/refused.....	2	

F3a. Are you currently employed? **(IF CURRENTLY EMPLOYED:)** What type of work do you do? **(IF NOT CURRENTLY EMPLOYED:)** Are you a student, a homemaker, retired, or unemployed and looking for work?

<u>Currently Employed</u>	[343-350]
Professional/manager.....	25
White collar worker.....	23
Blue collar worker.....	17
Farmer.....	1
<u>Not Currently Employed</u>	
Student.....	3
Homemaker.....	7
Retired.....	19
Unemployed, looking for work.....	3
Never worked/not sure.....	2

F3b. For each of the following descriptions I read, please tell me whether it applies to you personally. **(READ ITEM)** -- does that apply to you or not?

	<u>Applies</u>	<u>Does Not Apply</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>	
Have at least \$5,000 invested in mutual funds or stocks...	56	41	3	[351]
Read the newspaper at least four times a week.....	70	29	1	[352]
Watch the TV news at least four times a week.....	84	14	2	[353]
Regularly attend church services.....	52	46	2	[354]

F4. In politics today, do you generally consider yourself to be very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, very conservative, or do you think that your views cannot really be described in those terms?

Very liberal.....	7	[355]
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Somewhat liberal.....	18
Moderate.....	31
Somewhat conservative.....	21
Very conservative.....	12
Views cannot be described in those terms.....	9
Not sure.....	2

F5. Did you happen to vote in the 1996 presidential election? **(IF YES, ASK:)** For whom did you vote -- Bill Clinton, the Democrat, Bob Dole, the Republican, or Ross Perot, the Reform Party candidate?

Voted

Bill Clinton.....	43	[356]
Bob Dole.....	28	
Ross Perot.....	6	
Other (VOL)/not sure/refused.....	5	
<u>Did Not Vote</u>	16	
<u>Not Sure If Voted/Refused</u>	2	

F6. Are you currently single and never married, married, separated, widowed, or divorced?

Single.....	20	[357]
Married.....	60	
Separated.....	2	
Widowed.....	6	
Divorced.....	10	
Other (VOL).....	-	
Not sure/refused.....	2	

F7. Do you have any children under age 18 currently living in your household?

Yes, kids under 18 in household.....	38	[358]
No, no kids under 18 in household.....	61	
Not sure.....	1	

F8. In what religion were you brought up?

Protestant.....	50	CONTINUE	[359]
Catholic.....	31		
Jewish.....	2		
Other.....	10	Skip To Q.F10	
None.....	4		
Not sure/refused.....	3		

(ASK ONLY OF PROTESTANTS IN Q.F8.)

F9. Would you describe yourself as either a fundamentalist or an evangelical Christian, or would you not describe yourself that way?

Fundamentalist/evangelical.....	18	[360]
Neither fundamentalist nor evangelical.....	30	
Not sure.....	2	
Non-Protestants (Q.F8).....	50	

F10. Are you a member of a labor union? **(IF "NO," ASK:)** Is anyone else in this household a member of a labor union?

Labor union member.....	11	[361]
Labor union household.....	7	
Nonunion household.....	80	
Not sure.....	2	

F11. Are you from a Hispanic or Spanish-speaking background?

(IF NO:) What is your race--white, black, Asian, or something else?

Hispanic.....	6	[362]
White.....	79	
Black.....	10	
Asian.....	1	
Other.....	2	
Not sure/refused.....	2	

F12. Finally, if you added together the yearly income of all the members of your family who were living at home last year, would the total be less than \$10,000, between \$10,000 and \$20,000, between \$20,000 and \$30,000, between \$30,000 and \$40,000, between \$40,000 and \$50,000, between \$50,000 and \$75,000, between \$75,000 and \$100,000, or would the total be more than that?

Less than \$10,000.....	5	[363]
Between \$10,000 and \$20,000.....	9	
Between \$20,000 and \$30,000.....	11	
Between \$30,000 and \$40,000.....	12	
Between \$40,000 and \$50,000.....	13	
Between \$50,000 and \$75,000.....	18	
Between \$75,000 and \$100,000.....	10	
More than \$100,000.....	9	
Not sure/refused.....	13	